

A. W. Weston

Boston. May 15. 1839.

Wednesday evening.

Dear Deborah,

I am fearful that you have been upbraiding me in no measured terms for not having written before, but I could not. I shall send you with this the notes that I took when in N. Y. It has employed all my leisure time to write them out, and I was anxious to do this because Garrison wanted to see them. I came to town a week ago last Saturday with very little expectation of getting to N. Y. but I finally arranged to go on Caroline's hook. I did not trouble myself to make any great preparation. I thought at first that I should dreadfully miss you in my getting off, as Caroline would be out of town all Monday forenoon which was my principal opportunity to prepare. But I did very well for I did not make any special attempts and Lucia served my turn very well. I took your little black trunk & having arranged with Mrs Southwick to matronise me waited the hour of 3. Mrs S. came for me, in her most smiling face & Joseph of course was all that was agreeable. Dr Farnsworth, his son Henry, Luther Bowtell, Oliver Johnson & some other brethren were in our car & we had a very agreeable time. Arrived at Providence Mr Southwick & Mr Philbrick agreed to take the Lexington which is you know, the \$1 boat. I, of course, was to share Mrs Southwick's fortune whatever it might be. Wendell, Wm Bapet, Abby Kelly & other friends too numerous to mention agreed to do the same. Dr Farnsworth warned me when I went on board the boat that I was taking my life in my hand. He took the John W. Prichard. Ellis Grey and some others had gone Stonington route. The moment I entered the boat I began to feel misgivings. She is a little thing and she was crowded to repetition. It was said between 4 & 500 people were on board. As we came on board, the boat nearly went over & from that moment all our party grew fearful. Reports were being

circulated all over the boat as to her unseaworthiness, the
imprudence of her captain and various other things. I grew
anxious when I perceived the character of the majority of the
passengers. Being the cheap boat, it was crowded with Irish
people & others who would be sure in any excitement to do
just the worst thing they could. We found that births would be
out of the question and we (our party) finally came to
the determination to go on shore at New Port & take the
John W. Richmond. This we accomplished. Mendee
took me under his special charge & we effected our
debarcation & embarkation again with no difficulty &
were warmly received on board the John W. by three of
our troops who were on board. There we could have
no births & as the night was very rough I could not
even wait for my bed to be made up, but threw
myself on my mattress covered up as it was & there I laid
more dead than alive all night - I never was so sick
before - I vomited in such a manner that I really got
soured. The whole cabin was such a scene of anguish
as I cannot describe - four babies roaring all round me
and every body so sick they could scarcely sit up. But fairly
morning came and as soon as it was light, I dressed and went on
deck, feeling very worn out. I had a good deal of talk
with Abby Kelley & think she is doing a great deal in
Milbany. A little before 9 we went on shore. The Southwicks
Mr & Mrs Anna & I went to the American Hotel. I forgot
to say that on board the boat Mr & Mrs Sam Rodman
came & spoke to me. At breakfast I found they and
Andrew Robeson had taken up their abode at the same
place. Mrs Rodman was very polite & civil. Mrs South-
wick was so ill to go to the public meeting at the Tab-
ernacle but Anne & I dressed and went. The meeting was full
and crowded and on the whole stupid. The business meeting
of the National com menced in the afternoon & as my notes
will tell you all about that I need enter into no parti-
culars. The next day Anna Phillbrick went to Fort Lee
to make the Webb's visit. In the evening a caucus was
held of the Mass delegates & Mr & Mrs Southwick and I set
off to go to it, but we could not find the way & wandered

about the streets of N.Y. a long time. There it was I took
my cow. On our way home I called at the A. S. office
& we had some talk with Phelps & Whittier. Phelps behav-
ed very much better than he does when in Boston. He
seemed quite willing to talk and instead of attacking me was
very defending himself. I attempted to enlighten Whittier but he
was so fearful and timid that I found it a difficult task.
Still I think he knows better than he does. All Thursday
we were occupied with the meetings. I was invited to take
tea & to pass the night at Marcus Spring's where R. Abby Kelly
was staying but it was so far off & I had so little strength
to waste that I could not go. This was the only family in
N.Y. from which I received the slightest courtesy. I never
saw the Tappans, though Lewis must have told them I
was in town. I meant to have called on Mrs Dr Cox but
could not find out where she lived nor did any body ap-
pear to know any thing about her. Friday morning the
Southwicks & I rose early and walked round the Battery
which was all the walking I saw while in N.Y. of a
regular nature. It is a very pretty affair. The last
session continued from 9 till 4 P.M. I left a little before
the adjournment so as to be ready at 5 when Wendell
came for me. The Southwicks were to stay another day.
Wendell came & we went on board the Narragansett.
I spent the evening reading Melville's new book was not at
all homesick and had some talk with Wise, he &
Wendell being on very good terms, so good that I did not know
but he would ask if this was Wendell? There was a
peace discussion in the cabin between H. B. Wright & some
others but I did not stay below for fear of being sick. I
was not sick at all. But I could not sleep any & had
to be up at 3 to take the car at Worthington. He had
a very pleasant ride & at 9 I was in West St pretty
far gone. Never theless I related all the story and
managed to sit up till about 5 in the afternoon when
I went to bed & laid till late the next morning. My

cold was quite bad & my strength all gone, but I drank
plenty of hoarhound, laid abed & did not go out. Henry &
Lorraine & Lincy spent the day at Weymouth & reported
all there as pretty well. D. L. Child called in the fore
noon & spent the evening with us. He was down from
Northampton for a day or so. His wife is coming to
stay in town several months. Willard spent Sunday
evening, to hear about N. G. I suppose. He was looking
better & seemed in good spirits. ^{1839 part of letter} He tried to defend the
New Yorkers, though he could scarcely help sympathizing in
L. Tappan's over throw. I forgot to say that on Saturday Eliza
beth Ford cooked. The truly mournful Mary Ann. She had
nothing very new to tell us - I was astonished to learn how
M. A. kept up her strength. She walked from the bed to
the fire & back the morning of her death, & washed her
face & hands & cleaned her teeth & about an hour before
she died, took arrow root & remarked how good it tasted.
Mrs F. was much interested in the cause & seemed to
understand its bearings. She agreed to get up a table
at the Fair for Sedham. Monday from Danvers came
I was not able to go out. I was too poorly & sorely could
not write to you, for every minute of time I could get I
took to write out my notes as I was told Garrison might
want them. Tuesday was a pouring rain and I wrote
almost all day. Wednesday (the day I began this letter for
it is now Thursday) I finished my notes, carried them to
Garrison and hope to get them this forenoon to send to you
by the Taunton train this afternoon. I dined at Charming's
yesterday. Mr C. is better tho' not well. Wendell & Ann are
to sail in the Wellington on the 10th of June for London. All
is arranged. I shall feel bad to have them go. E. Loring
called here yesterday afternoon looking miserable. He has
been very ill, but is now better, but still will not be able
to attend the N. E. Convention. They go out to Loring to pass
the summer in a week. He was in the loveliest frame
of mind imaginable. I will write more before I send this